

New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1864.

To Correspondents.
 No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. If a communication is intended for publication, it should be addressed to the Editor, and the name and address of the contributor should be given. If a communication is intended for publication, it should be addressed to the Editor, and the name and address of the contributor should be given. If a communication is intended for publication, it should be addressed to the Editor, and the name and address of the contributor should be given.

Terms of the Tribune.
 DAILY TRIBUNE, 3 cents.
 WEEKLY TRIBUNE, 25 cents.
 Address THE TRIBUNE, New-York.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The Navy Department has news of the destruction of four blockade runners, viz: 1. The *Unadorned*, an iron paddle-wheel steamer of about 90 tons, a fine new and powerful boat. She sailed from London in December last, with port, blivet, &c. 2. The *Dee*, a double-screw iron steamer, built especially for the Southern trade at London. She was a member of the fleet of ten feet, and said to be very fast, 12 or 13 miles an hour. 3. The *Fanny and Jenny*, the old prize *Scotia*, captured in October, 1862, condemned and sold to outside parties, and being deemed fit for naval service. Her name was changed to the *Gen. Banks*, and she was taken to Halifax and sailed from there in July, 1863, to engage in blockade running under the name of the *Fanny and Jenny*. 4. The *Emily*, a new screw steamer, built in London last fall, owned by Higgin, a fine boat of 500 tons.

The reports from Rebel papers of a fight near Clinton, Miss., on the 14th inst., are confirmed by officers from that point. Our troops charged the Rebel battery, and lost fifteen killed and thirty wounded. Among the wounded is Col. Rogers of Illinois. The enemy were driven off, and our forces proceeded toward Jackson. Gen. Sherman entered Jackson on the 15th. The Rebels offered but little resistance, and are falling back over Pearl River. It is believed that the Rebels are receiving reinforcements from Dalton.

The story of the escape of Col. Straight and over 100 other Union prisoners from Liberty Prison, is repeated in a dispatch from Gen. Butler. He gets the news from Gen. Wister, who says that Col. Straight and 17 others are safe—the remainder not heard from.

We have a dispatch from Halifax telling the world, for about the twentieth time, that the Admiralty had decided to give up the Chesapeake to her owners. This is supposed to be the final, last, concluding, ultimate decision.

CONGRESS.
 SENATE, Feb. 15.—The bill to legalize the payments of Paymaster Dorian was passed. A bill defining the rank, duty and pay of Chaplains was referred; they are to have the pay of a Major of Infantry, hold religious meetings twice a week, and keep the libraries for soldiers. A bill granting a pension to John L. Burns for patriotic services at Gettysburg was passed. The Enrollment bill was called up, and the Senate, by a decisive vote, refused to reconsider its position; a Committee of Conference must be had. A bill relating to stamps was referred; it provides for the right of appeal from the decision of the Commissioner to the Supreme Court. A bill to amend the act of March 3, 1863, relating to the duties of the Commissioner of the Treasury was referred. The bill was taken up; it was voted to increase the salaries of all the Assistant Secretaries and First and Second Assistant Postmaster-Generals after the close of this financial year to \$3,500 per annum; the House bill as amended was then agreed to. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Stevens reported a bill authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Register of the Treasury, who a bill extending the time for the withdrawal of goods from the public stores and warehouses. Mr. Stevens also reported a bill granting public lands to the People's Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Company by the northern route. Mr. Wallace introduced a bill to establish a branch mint in the Territory of Idaho. All referred. Mr. Windom offered a joint resolution, which was referred, proposing to amend the Constitution so as to prohibit slavery throughout the United States and Territories. Resolutions of inquiry were adopted, among them one requesting the Judiciary Committee to examine and report as to the expediency of establishing a new Department, to be called the Department of Revenue. Mr. Arnold offered a resolution declaring "That the Constitution shall be so amended as to abolish and prohibit slavery wherever it exists." Mr. Holman moved to lay the resolution on the table. Motion disagreed to by Yeas 58, Nays 73. Mr. Arnold's resolution was adopted; Yeas 78, Nays 62. A bill for a ship canal around Niagara Falls was reported. A bill for a Uniform System of Bankruptcy was also reported. The House then took up the Senate's amendment to the Internal Revenue bill. Mr. Stevens moved concurrence in the Senate's amendments, which, he said, was a better revenue measure than the bill as it passed the House. He explained the amendments at length. Fernando Wood replied, and the debate was continued, without voting, until the hour of adjournment. Mr. Davis, from the Select Committee, reported a bill giving certain States, whose Governments have been seized or overthrown, a Republican form of Government. It provides for the appointment of Provisional Governors, charged with civil administration, until, by means of elections, the State Governments can be re-established; all slaves in such territory are declared free, and any person heretofore in the Rebel public service is declared not to be a citizen of the United States. The bill is laid over to be printed. Adjourned.

LEGISLATURE.
 SENATE, Feb. 15.—Bills were introduced for the better regulation of the State Inebriate Asylum; prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sundays; incorporating the New-York Skating Club and Harrow Society; perfecting a constitutional amendment providing for the appointment of five Commissioners of Appeal; amending the charter of the Hudson and Harlem River Canal Company. Bills were passed amending the charter of the Gulf and Florida Insurance Company; amending the charter of Auburn; appointing Messrs. Aton, Bowers, Bergen, and McMurray Police Commissioners. Mr. Fields moved an amendment requiring the removal of the present Superintendent within ten days after the passage of this act. Lost—Yeas, 2 (Fields and Cozzens); Nays, 19. Mr. Fields moved an amendment empowering the Governor and Senate to fill vacancies; lost, 4 to 17. The bill then passed—Yeas, 20; Nays, 1. Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.—Bills were reported favoring amending the charter of the New-York Dime Savings Bank; limiting the term of Notaries Public; relating to the service of legal processes on express companies. Bills were introduced to extend the Genesee Valley Canal, for greater protection against counterfeit bank notes; incorporating the American Club, New-York; authorizing the extension of certain streets in New-York; to establish a Milk Exchange in New-York. A resolution was then adopted to adjourn over from the 19th to the 20th. Assembly local bills were ordered to a third reading, when the House adjourned.

GENERAL NEWS.
 By the arrival of the steamship *Ariel*, from Aspinwall Feb 6, we have later news from Central and South America. The Admiral of the French fleet, blockading the west coast of Mexico, has officially notified the Pacific Mail Steamship Company of the blockade. The steamers of the Company will, however, be allowed to touch at Acapulco for coal and provisions. A private account from Mexico says that San Blas, the port of Guadalupe, declared itself in favor of the intervention. The reports about the civil war in the United States of Colombia are contradictory. According to one account, peace was restored in the whole Republic; according to another the Revolutionists in

the State of Antioquia routed the forces of the Government, but were defeated, in turn, on invading the State of Cauca.

The deaths in New-York during the past week were 474—105 men, 105 women, 123 boys, and 131 girls—a decrease of 21 from the mortality of the previous week, and of 14 as compared with the mortality of the corresponding week of 1863. Of the deceased, 233 were children under five years of age. The mortality by the principal diseases was as follows: Consumption, 73; inflammation of the lungs, 49; infantile convulsions, 21; scarlet fever, 20; diphtheria in the head, 21; croup, 22; inflammation of the bowels, 17; infantile marasmus, 18; typhus fever, 16; typhoid, 10; deaths from external causes, 21, among which are reported 5 premature births, 4 deaths from old age, 4 drowned, and 4 killed by accident. There were 62 deaths in the institutions and 16 internments in Potter's Field.

A Washington dispatch states that the Ways and Means Committee of the House have prepared a bill authorizing Secretary Chase to sell \$100,000,000 in gold. The Secretary thinks he will have that much to spare at the close of the fiscal year.

The citizens of Philadelphia have subscribed \$13,150 for the relief of East Tennessee. The Philadelphia Bank gave \$1,000, and the Delaware and N. A. Insurance Companies, \$500 each, and N. W. Clark & Co. subscribed \$2,000.

The Supreme Court of the United States on Monday refused the application for a writ of certiorari in the case of Mr. Vallandigham, on the ground of want of jurisdiction.

Gold, under the demand for Custom-House purposes, was higher, and closes at 104. The receipts to-day at the Sub-Treasury were again large. Upon the street, Stocks were much excited, and speculation more rampant than for a long time. At the Stock Exchange, Governments were firm. Stocks have been rampant all day, and the list closes at a firm advance. Governments Stocks are firm, and the 7.30s are in advance at 111, with little regard to the issue. Money is very abundant at 6 per cent, and more is offered at this rate than can be used by stock houses. The quotation is still 6 1/2 per cent, the latter to second rate borrowers upon undrawable collateral.

Wendell Phillips speaks on "Reconstruction", this evening at the Cooper Institute. It will be his first lecture on that topic, as such, in this city, and it is to be presumed that a large number of people will be anxious to hear him.

The House yesterday resolved, by Yeas 78 Nays 62, that the Constitution of the United States should be so amended as to abolish Slavery in the United States wherever it now exists, and to prohibit its extension in every part thereof forever. We presume this may be understood as a hint to the Senate to pass the amendment which its Judiciary Committee has already reported.

The Whisky tax was again debated at length in the House yesterday. No vote was reached. The Ways and Means Committee are, of course, in favor of the Senate amendment, which reflects their original views, yet we trust the influences brought to bear on the House are not potent enough to reverse its previous decision. But there is a very strong lobby in the interest of the speculators, and none at all in behalf of the Treasury.

The Senate yesterday by a decided vote—figures not given—refused to concur in the House amendments to the Enrollment Bill. The House will doubtless insist, and the bill must go before a Committee of Conference. If judiciously constituted, the Committee will make short work of the disagreements. There are some things in the House bill we should like to see altered, but nothing on which it is worth while to make a stand, except the provision for paying the \$100 due a drafted slave to the master who has stolen all his previous earnings. That ought to go out at any rate.

Mr. L. T. Williams of our City is to be heard, we understand, this afternoon or evening before one of the Legislative Committees at Albany, in support of the common right of our citizens to use their own streets, even though certain favored parties have laid rails in them. If he shall be so heard, we beg all our legislators who would vote intelligently and honestly on the various City Railroad schemes now before them to be found among his auditors. Mr. Williams knows the jobbers in legislation "like a book" and is able to let in daylight upon their very craftiest devices.

The Supreme Court of the United States has refused an application for a writ of *certiorari* in Vallandigham's case, on the ground that they have no authority to review in the mode proposed, or in any mode, the proceedings of a military commission. Judge-Advocate-General Holt, who appeared for the Government, pertinently remarked that the Court might as well undertake to restrain the proceedings of Congress by injunction as to interfere in time of war with the jurisdiction of a military tribunal.

It seems to us that the Copperhead Democracy may begin to suspect that the Supreme Court, which they have hitherto invoked so frequently, may not be inclined to lend itself to their work of embarrassing the Government and aiding the Rebellion.

Gen. Sherman entered Jackson, Capital of Mississippi, on the 5th instant, having accomplished his march from Vicksburg deliberately but without serious opposition. There was some resistance at the crossing of Big Black River, and a sharp skirmish at Clinton, nine miles west of Jackson, but there has been no battle and will be none till Sherman's column is much further on its way. Polk is at Enterprise, near Meridian, with an army of paroled prisoners and conscripts, the former of whom the high-minded chivalry will, of course, send to the field as soon as they want them. But we doubt whether the Rebels will find themselves strong enough to risk a general engagement in Mississippi. It is not to be expected that Johnston will send any large portion of his forces west of the Tombigbee River. If he does not, Gen. Sherman may pursue his campaign for some time to come without any very brilliant results, yet with important success.

There is no news from the cavalry columns of Grierson and Smith, except a rumor that one is intended to cut off Polk's retreat, and disperse Forrest's troops, supposed to be still haunting Mississippi.

But a statement comes from Chattanooga of the highest moment, if trustworthy. The army under Gen. Thomas is said to be in motion toward Dalton, meaning, of course, to find out where Johnston has gone, and to "move upon his works." In that case, the Rebel commander has to defend himself against a direct attack, and equally to provide for the advance of Sherman. Between the two, his chances are small indeed.

THE MODERN MOHAWK.

Jefferson Davis has now some two to three hundred thousand American citizens in his various armies. A very large majority of them are there because they were conscripted, and had no choice but to serve or be shot. Some thousands were accepted by him as substitutes for conscripts whom he has, in spite of such purchased substitution, ordered to be again conscripted and to serve exactly as though they had never hired substitutes whom he has accepted. Many of the residue have long since served out the full terms of their enlistment, and have solicited the discharge to which they were entitled by the universal laws of War; whereupon, this arch-republican has had them all conscripted to serve to the end of the War! Finally, his puppet Congress has just passed an act conscripting every one to serve to the end of the War, regardless of substitution, term of enlistment, special contract, or anything else. Their families are starving, while the \$11 per month he pays them is worth less than \$1 in coin, and a year's pay of a soldier will not buy a barrel of flour in his capital, and will hardly buy it in any part of his remaining dominions. His soldier dupes or victims are mainly ragged, shoeless, blanketless, and half-famished; if they attempt to leave the service into which they have been forced, they are mercilessly shot if caught; and, since he cannot or will not feed, clothe, shoe, pay, or keep faith with them, he favors them with a Proclamation.

In this document, he thanks them for their agency in rebuilding, when he has allowed them no alternative. They may rebelist or not; but in either case they must serve to the end of the war or be shot as deserters. Of course, betwixt the Union soldiers with being mercenary, because ninety-nine in every hundred of them are in arms in obedience to their own free contract to serve their country. Don't he wish he could twist them with having to serve in spite of their contracts, and with not half enough to wear or to eat?

Jeff. tells his soldiers that they won the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, and Murfreesboro. If they did, why were they racing southward at the close of each of these battles, with their Union foes hard on their heels? That they did so leave those battle-fields, we prove by the official bulletins of Beauregard and Bragg. Why not as well claim victories at Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Missionary Ridge?

Jeff. boasts of the devotion of his men compared with "the halting and reluctant service" of ours. Yet he knows that not less than twenty thousand of his soldiers have deserted since last October, and that at least five thousand have come over to us. We prove this by the complaints of his own leading journals, who intimate that more than half the number whom his Congress have ordered into his ranks can be found there to-day. From the beginning of the struggle, at least ten have deserted from his armies to ours for every one who has deserted from ours to his. Is there no sense of shame in this desperate traitor?

Jeff. talks of our "overstrained resources," "debt," "repetitions of heavy drafts," "consciousness of a bad cause," &c., &c., and assures his dupes that our armies must be less formidable in 1864 than they were in 1862 and 1863! He knows better; but his remaining dupes will be sadly undeceived before the 4th of July. We appeal from prophecy to history.

LEGISLATION AT ALBANY.

We perceive that persons who hang around the Legislature are at work again, and securing to themselves, through the instrumentality of acts of legislation, a portion of the property of our citizens. We have a constitutional provision, which declares that private property shall not be taken for public use, without just compensation. It did not seem to occur to our Constitution-makers, that a provision should have been also inserted, that private property should not also be taken for private use without just compensation. We can only account for this omission upon the presumption that it was not imagined by them, that any such proposition could ever be made. If men were found shameless enough, or so lost to all sense of decency and justice, as to propose it, it was not supposed that any legislative body would ever be found, who would for a moment entertain such suggestion. A similar train of reasoning led to the omission, in the Roman law, of any punishment for the crime of parricide. It was not supposed that so horrible a crime could be committed, and therefore the omission of any law to punish the offense. There is some show of justice and propriety in taking private property for public use. In that case, the individual deprived of his own, derives some benefit from its appropriation for the benefit of the whole community, as a component part of such community. He, at any rate, has the satisfaction of witnessing the fruits of his care and industry used for the benefit of that government and public which protect him. But, where his property is taken for private use, no such ameliorating circumstances obtain. The idle and shiftless seek, by short and easy methods, to appropriate to themselves the fruits of the labor of others. The modern device is to do this through the instrumentality of legislative grants, boldly and with shameless effrontery asked for, inconsiderately, hastily and most wrongfully conceded—a recent discovery, which has turned thousands into the pockets of this class of speculators, in grants of railroads to be operated in our streets. No necessities of the public or conveniences of the owners of the property bordering upon the streets so used and appropriated seem to be regarded. It is quite forgotten that the streets of this city are owned by those who have bought and paid for the lots fronting on them. In most instances, they are composed of land taken compulsorily from its owners, for the sole purpose of forming streets for public use. The instant such land is appropriated for private use and benefit, it is a perversion of the original taking, and no amount of

sophistry can justify such legislation. It is too notorious that such grants, thus in effect using private property, and in many instances greatly reducing its value, if not confiscating it, are sold in the market, the persons who obtained them pocketing thousands of dollars, without the expenditure of a cent; and this is all done at the expense and to the injury of private individuals, who, under the semblance of the taking of their property for a public use, and therefore receiving only a nominal compensation, witness its appropriation to private uses, and the enrichment of those, who literally, like roaring lions, go about, seeking whom they may devour.

A host of bills are now before our Legislature, granting the use of our public streets to these favored individuals. No compensation is proposed to be paid to those whose property is taken or injured. No benefits are to result to our over-taxed citizens and our almost exhausted treasury. Can any community long stand upon persistent system of fleecing now practiced upon this city? We have no hesitation in saying that it must not be expected. We hear on all sides that low and sullen murmur that portends the coming storm; and we trust our Legislature at Albany will heed its warnings. That Legislature has, we know, possessed the confidence of the people. Men are found among its members as high and as pure as any in the State. Let them show by their acts that they have the honor of the State at heart, and that the rights and property of its citizens are safe in their hands. It is a Union Legislature, elected by those who are struggling to save their country in this day of its peril and mortal strife—by those who give themselves, their children and their means freely, to maintain our liberties and noble institutions.

Stay the hand of rapacity and plunder in this hour of National calamity. The responsible majority of the Legislature is and will be held accountable for all laws passed. Many of the laws applicable to this city, for a few years past, have been most obnoxious to our citizens. The result has been from year to year that the dominant party in the State has been growing weaker and weaker in this city, until it is now feared that, if this course of legislation is persisted in and carried out, it will be hopeless to sustain those who are made instrumental in perpetuating such great wrongs.

We implore our friends at Albany to pause before they grant away any more privileges to private individuals, to enjoy what solely belongs to the public. If railroads in the streets are required, let them be built and run by the city, and for its benefit. If wanted in any particular street, the people occupying it will first discover the fact. Until thus called for, let no more privileges be granted, at the expense of the city and our citizens.

THE RECRUITING BUSINESS IN OUR CITY.

The system of recruiting which has recently been followed in this city is one of the greatest scandals of the war. It has been one of organized pillage, resort being had to hoarding with narcotic poisons, threats, violence, false representations and kidnapping in order to furnish victims to the bounty-brokers and fill up the army with discontented and unfit men. Cripples, old men, mere boys, men laboring under incurable diseases, and soldiers previously discharged for physical disability, form a great part of the recruits recently enlisted in this city. A bad eminence has been given to Lafayette Hall, the headquarters of Gen. Spicola, in this matter; but the evil, though perhaps most flagrant there, is one which has pervaded the entire City and State.

And who, in our city more especially, are to be held responsible for this state of things? First, we answer, the practical working majority of the Committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to dispense the county bounty of \$300 for each recruit. This majority are the responsible parents of the system of assignment and brokerage to which all the frauds that have taken place are to be attributed. They would not see the recruit; they would not, as has been done in Brooklyn, pay the \$300 into his hands; they would only deal with brokers who advanced the money and took an assignment therefrom from the recruit, on which, and the certificate of the mustering officer, the County Committee would alone disburse. How unwisely and unhappily the whole business has been managed will appear from the following exposition:

Some months ago Gen. Spicola received authority to raise a brigade, to be commanded by himself when raised. Why, or upon whose recommendation, Gen. Spicola was selected for this duty, at variance with the ordinary practice of the army, does not appear. Be that as it may, Spicola's Brigade was to be recruited independently of the general recruiting machinery of the army, and the result is before us. How that result was brought about it is not difficult to comprehend, when we examine the special machinery put in operation by the General to fill up his ranks.

By General Spicola's appointment, and with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors, a chief broker was appointed at Lafayette Hall, in which he had a regular office, and wherein, with a force of clerks and runners, he brought up the recruits, cashed their assignments, and took, ostensibly, for such cashing the sum of fifteen dollars (being the proper recruiting fee) on each sum of three hundred dollars advanced. In other words, for the loan of three hundred dollars for as long a time as it would take a man to run from Lafayette Hall to the County Committee Rooms and back again—probably thirty minutes—the broker ostentatiously and avowedly received five per cent. This gives thirty thousand dollars profit in about two months on the two thousand recruits paid for by the County Committee as enlisted at Lafayette Hall, several hundred of whom, it is now believed, never reached Riker's Island, the recruiting depot. As two thousand dollars would have been an ample capital on which to commence this business, it will be seen that the broker—even taking his own view of the case for gospel truth—has been doing a large and extremely lucrative business.

But let us for a moment go behind this view: The facts are, that of the 2,000 men in

question, the majority did not receive over \$50 of the \$300 paid by the county. The other half received sums ranging from \$100 to \$150 of the bounty due to them. Gen. Spicola being understood to claim that the 2,000 recruits have "averaged a receipt of \$100 per head," the balance of \$25 in each case going to the disinterested and patriotic parties who have been engaged in and around Lafayette Hall in the noble task of "filling up our armies!" Let us take this statement also for its face, and see if the result is as satisfactory as Gen. Spicola appears to consider it. This gives the sum of \$200,000 to be divided between 2,000 soldiers and the families they leave behind them; while also giving the snug little sum of \$150,000 to be divided between the broker and the little gang of old "emigrant-runners" and "baggage-smashers" from Castle Garden, who have been the congenial instruments in the kidnapping and plunder of the victims sent to Riker's Island!

But can it be believed that all these monstrous irregularities, going on, day in and day out, at Lafayette Hall have been without the connivance, direct or indirect, of the officers and others in authority? Have the brokers and runners had this "big thing" all to themselves; and did the proper military officers who should have checked such evils remain inactive and practically conniving, for nothing? Old men with gray hair, over sixty years of age, had their hair dyed and were accepted as if in the prime of life. Mere boys ranging from fourteen to fifteen, were kidnapped on their way to or from school, and mustered in; men with incurable diseases and manifestly unfit were passed; many men discharged from armies in the field as hopeless cases, were returned to the service to be a burden on the pay-rolls and hospitals of the Government. Wherever men have been sent to the field, complaints come back that more than half will have to be discharged immediately as unfit for the exposures and hardships of a soldier's life.

Now, it is bad enough, perhaps, in this net over loyal city to have a draft at all; but for our citizens to be first taxed to fill up their quotas, and then to have a draft made necessary afterward by this system of fraud, can hardly be considered an improvement! Let the responsibility for such a state of things, therefore, be fixed where it belongs; and let the working majority of the County Committee of New-York explain, if they can, why they did not, and would not, do as was done in Brooklyn—insist upon seeing each recruit, and paying the money into his own hands, at the time of his being sworn into the service!

When Gen. Dix first had his attention called to this matter, though not properly within the line of the duties to which he has been assigned, and when that honest and able officer first began to take steps toward insuring justice to the recruits, a howl was raised by the bounty thieves and brokers that "recruiting would be paralyzed the moment this system was broken up." Even Gen. Spicola wrote a letter to *The Herald* on the subject, strongly urging this view, and taking the side of the brokers. If the emigrant-runners, baggage-smashers, sailor-kidnappers, and others of a like class who were patriotically devoting their attention to this new "placer" were interfered with, there would be another draft, and another anti-draft riot right away; our streets would run blood, and the scenes of last July be repeated with all the modern improvements.

But what are the facts?

The facts are, that while recruiting fell off a little at first, it has been steadily and geometrically improving ever since, until now the number of men received at Riker's Island, is greater than it was under the former Lafayette Hall system; while the physical quality and spirit of the recruits themselves is unspeakably improved. The men now received enter the service sober, and remit their bounty money to their families. Every family thus relieved is in itself a call upon the young men of families similarly poor to enter the service; while, under the old system, every recruit swindled out of his bounty was, by his letters home, an active agent "to deter enlistments." Let it be known that every person desiring to enter the service can receive \$300 in current funds in this city, and be protected in sending the same, or such portion thereof as he may think proper, to his family, and we shall have no difficulty in filling up our quota without a draft.

—And now, let us ask, is there no law to reach these abominable harpies? Is there no means by which they can be compelled to disgorge their ill-gotten gains? Shall the Government, powerful to make arrests in other cases, stand helpless in view of wholesale frauds committed in offices over which the United States flag was displayed, and in which men wearing the United States uniform stood as practical participants—whether conscious or not—in the organized swindling? And what, let us ask, is done by the hundreds upon hundreds of officers and soldiers who are stationed on recruiting service in this city? Will the proper authority, whoever that may be, call upon all such officers as are here on recruiting service to send lists of the men they have brought into the service? We know cases in which officers have been drawing pay, rations, &c., from the Government, for six months, and in all this time they have not furnished one single solitary recruit! We believe, from the best information, that such recruiting officers may be divided into three classes—the first and smallest comprises those who really strive to do their duty; the second and largest class doing nothing whatever, but simply regarding their detail for recruiting service as a six months furlough; and the third class acting as the uniformed agents of the brokers, and turning over to such brokers, for a consideration, all the recruits they can procure. Let all such officers be called upon for an account of their stewardship, giving the name of the office at which each recruit was mustered in, and then let it be inquired who received the bounty in such cases.

"The Life and Adventures, Songs, Services, and Speeches of Private MILES O'REILLY, 47th Regiment, New-York Volunteers, with Comic Illustrations by Mullen," will be handsomely

issued by Carleton on Saturday. There are lots of fun and some instruction in it, as the public already knows. We believe several thousand copies are already bespoken.

Congress is maturing a bill to define the position, duties and pay of chaplains. Why not add, as a specific duty, that each chaplain of a regiment shall keep a full and correct record for the Government of the rise, movements, fights, casualties, &c., in which such regiment may share? Such records would be of great value, and the chaplains are just the men to keep them. We think a regulation was made for something of the kind a year or two since, but thus far the results have not been apparent.

There is a question in Finance that we should like to see solved by the eminent economists in Congress, and especially by the Chairman of the Senate's Finance Committee. It runs thus: If our country is so poor that it cannot afford to pay \$13 per month in greenbacks to her colored soldiers even when they enlisted on a specific promise of that rate, can it afford to put Five Millions into the pockets of the Whisky-gamblers which rightfully belongs to their Treasury?

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.
 WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 15, 1864.
 RESTORATION OF GOVERNMENT FOR SOUTHERN STATES.

Henry Winter Davis, Chairman of the Committee on the Rebellious States, to-day introduced a bill to guarantee to certain States, whose Governments have been crushed and overthrown, a Republican form of Government. The bill provides that in addition to the officers now in authority, a Provisional Governor shall be appointed charged with the civil administration of such State until a State Government shall be elected. That when all military resistance shall have ceased in said States, an enrollment shall be made of the white male citizens designating those who do take and those who refuse to take the oath of allegiance, with a view to the establishment of a State Committee.

If the number taking the oath shall amount to one-tenth of the persons enrolled, a convention consisting of the same number of members as both Houses of the last State Legislature shall be called for the purpose of constituting a State Government.

No person who has held any office, civil or military, State or Confederate, under the Rebel usurpation, shall vote or be eligible as a delegate, nor shall any person who has held office under the Rebel Government, or been voluntarily in arms against the United States, be allowed to vote even if he offers to take the oath of allegiance.

The delegates shall meet in convention, and prescribe a State Constitution, excluding any person who has held any office under the Confederate Government from a right to vote, or to be a member of the Legislature or Governor, declaring slavery forever abolished, and that no debt, State or Confederate, created by or under the Rebellion, shall be recognized by the State.

On the adoption of this Constitution the State Government can be elected. That until such Constitution be adopted and Government elected the Provisional Governor shall see that all laws of the United States and of the State, except those acknowledging the right to hold slaves, shall be enforced.

The Provisional Governor is also to have power to assess and collect taxes, which shall be applied to the expenses of the administration of the laws in such State, under the direction of the President, and the surplus deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of such State. All slaves are emancipated by this act, and their posterity to be ever free.

All persons holding or exercising any office, civil or military, in the Rebel States after the passage of this act are hereby declared not to be citizens of the United States.

THE WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.

The Sub-Committee of the Senate are investigating the proposed additional expenditure of half a million dollars for the Washington Aqueduct. The reports of former engineers show that the original appropriation was sufficient to complete the work.

THE NEW-YORK CUSTOM-HOUSE.

There were rumors of a change in the New-York Custom-House. The Blair-Wood party are for Mr. Danahy, and the President, it is understood, favors the appointment of Simon Draper.

TENNESSEE.

Gov. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee is in town upon special business with the Government. It is understood that the question of reorganizing the State of Tennessee under the President's Proclamation is the more particular object of his visit.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE BILL.

The Internal Revenue bill, with the Senate amendments, came up in the House to-day, but no action was had thereon. Many of the members who before voted for the House bill are understood to have changed their opinions, and are now in favor of concurring in the Senate amendments. Those who voted for the tax of forty cents upon all whisky on hand are willing to compromise upon twenty cents per gallon.

It is probable that the bill will pass as it comes from the Senate—the Committee of Ways and Means recommending such action. Should a Committee of Conference be insisted upon, there is but little doubt that they will recommend a concurrence in the Senate amendment.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

The correspondence between the authorities of the United States and the Rebel authorities on the exchange of prisoners, &c., submitted to the Senate has just been published. We copy the letter of Gen. Butler, defining the position of Government and himself.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.
 FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 12, 1864.
 SIR: Your note addressed to Major-General HILLOCK, in relation to the appointment by the Government of the United States, of a Commission of Exchange, is returned. This Government claims and exercises the power of appointing its own agents to represent its interests, irrespective of any supposed action by the Confederate authorities.

No right of declaration of outlawry by those authorities of any officer or soldier of the United States can be admitted, or a moment regarded by the Government of the United States, as it certainly will not be by the persons upon whom such intimation is attempted.

I am instructed to renew the offer, having all other questions in abeyance, to exchange men for men and officers for officers of equal rank actually held in custody by either party until all prisoners of war so sent are thus exchanged.

I take leave to express the hope, from humane considerations to those numbered as prisoners of war on either side, that this offer will be accepted. I am further instructed to inform you, that unless the despatch is sent forward under the seal of a moment required by the Government of the United States, it will be considered as withdrawn. This communication is returned by your authorities, all further communication between this Government and the Confederate authorities, by the use of force must cease, however much the law of the ameliorating influences upon the signs of what ought to be a civilized warfare is to be regretted; but the responsibility of such determination must be left with those whom you represent.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.
 Major-General, and Commissioner of Exchange,
 Hon. ROBERT COLE, Commissioner of Exchange, Richmond, Va.

DISTRICT JUDGE OF KANSAS.

The Kansas Legislature, by joint resolution, has instructed her Senators to oppose the confirmation of Delahay, nominated by the President for District Judge of that State.

SURGEON HAMMOND'S CASE.

Gen. Halleck was to-day before the Court-Martial in Surgeon Hammond's case, and testified that he never asked for Dr. Cooper's removal or Dr. Murray's appointment at Philadelphia, as asserted by Gen. Hammond in a letter to Dr. Cooper, which letter is subject matter of one of the specifications.

THE ENROLLMENT BILL.

The Senate, to-day, disagreed with the Enrollment bill as passed by the House, and a Committee of Conference will probably be called. It is generally